

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A powder paint composition comprising at least:
 - (a) a thermosetting polymer having functional groups capable of reacting with β -hydroxyalkylamide units
 - (b) a compound comprising β -hydroxyalkylamide units and
 - (c) a deceleration agent which reversibly blocks the functional groups of polymer (a) by forming a reversible bond with the functional groups of polymer (a) in the form of a hydrogen bridge, an ionic bond or a salt complex such that the curing reaction is slowed, wherein
[[The]] the deceleration agent is present in an amount sufficient to block at least 9 % of the total amount of functional groups of polymer (a).
2. (previously presented) A powder paint composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer (a) is a carboxylic acid functional polymer or an anhydride functional polymer.
3. (previously presented) A powder paint composition according to Claim 1, wherein the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV) :

$$\text{YR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^3 \quad \text{(III)}$$

or

$$(\text{YR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^3\text{R}^4)^+\text{X}^- \quad \text{(IV)}$$

wherein:

Y is N or P,

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 or R^4 are independently of each other carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

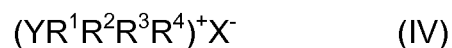
X^- is halide.

4. (previously presented) A powder paint composition according to Claim 3, wherein the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III).
5. (previously presented) A powder paint composition according to Claim 3, wherein Y is N.
6. (previously presented) A powder paint composition according to Claim 3, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are unsubstituted carbon chains.
7. (previously presented) A powder paint composition according to Claim 1, wherein the deceleration agent is octyldimethylamine, decyldimethylamine, dodecyldimethylamine, tetradecyldimethylamine, hexadecyldimethylamine, octadecyldimethylamine, (hydrogenated tallow alkyl)-dimethylamine and/or hexadecyldimethylamine.
8. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a precursor powder paint composition according to Claim 1 comprising at least the steps of:
 - a) producing the polymer (a) having functional groups capable of reacting with β -hydroxyalkylamide units at the processing temperature T_p ;
 - b) adding the deceleration agent (c) to the polymer (a) at temperature T_a , wherein T_a is equal to or lower than T_p but higher than the T_g or T_m of the polymer, in an amount sufficient to block at least 9% of the functional groups of the polymer (a) capable of reacting with β -hydroxyalkylamide units.
9. (original) A process according to Claim 8, wherein the deceleration agent is added before the polymer is cooled down to below its T_g or T_m .
10. (previously presented) A method of decelerating the reaction between functional groups of a thermosetting polymer and β -hydroxyalkylamide units of a β -hydroxyalkylamide compound, the method comprising adding to the

thermosetting polymer an effective amount of a reaction deceleration agent comprised of a tertiary compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV):



or



wherein:

Y is N or P

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 or R^4 are independently of each other, substituted or unsubstituted carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

X^- is halide.

11. (previously presented) A process for curing a powder paint composition on a substrate comprising applying the powder paint composition according to Claim 1 onto a substrate and then curing the powder paint composition.